



Senior Airman Celsa Reyes, 90th Security Forces Squadron, boards a bus that will take her to a C-130 at the Wyoming Air National Guard Monday.



Photos by Senior Airman Lauren Hasinger

Security forces troops from the 90th Security Forces Group are briefed Monday before their deployment to help in the relief effort for victims of Hurricane Katrina. For more information on Warren's involvement in Joint Task Force Katrina, visit the base Web site at www.warren.af.mil and click the JTF Katrina link.

90 SFG deploys for JTF Katrina

Senior Airman Lauren Hasinger
90th Space Wing Public Affairs

Forty-four Airmen from the 90th Security Forces Group deployed to Keesler AFB, Miss., Columbus AFB, Miss., and Lackland AFB, Texas, Monday to help with disaster relief for victims of Hurricane Katrina, one of the worst natural disasters in the nation's history that killed hundreds, possibly thousands, and left tens of thousands homeless.

The Airmen, who were notified of their deployment Sept. 1, were transported from the Wyoming Air National Guard in a C-130 provided by Little Rock AFB, Ark.

"This is an emotional experience for me," said Col. Allen Jamerson, 90 SFG Commander. "This is like I'm sending my family into a hazardous, unstable place. At the same time, I'm very proud. I know everyone of these Airmen is very capable of getting the job done."

Master Sgt. Richard Thomas, 90th Security Forces Squadron, is the team leader for the Airmen. He said he's grateful for the opportunity to help people who have been affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Sergeant Thomas, who is the 90 SFS operations superintendent, said the Airmen were all hand-picked as being the best troops by their unit superintendents.

"It's a good feeling, the fact that our work hasn't been overlooked and that they appreciate what we do," said Airman 1st Class John Glenn, 90 SFS. "I'm glad we can help out some people who need it."

The Airmen were chosen for their willingness to do their job here, according to Chief Master Sgt. Ronald Schmitz, 90th Security Forces Manager.

"It's time to let them help out other places," said Chief Schmitz, who is deploying to Iraq in October. "This situation gives us the opportunity to help out Americans who are in dire, terrible need."

In order to prepare for the last-minute deployment, the Airmen spent the hours leading up to it on the firing range, going through deployment processing lines, getting medically cleared, and preparing their equipment.

"Whatever we have to go through to get down there pales in comparison to the people who are suffering," said Sergeant Thomas.

New Orleans native Airman 1st Class Randall Newton, 90th Logistic Readiness Squadron, and his family are experiencing that suffering first hand. Though his immediate family escaped to Baton Rouge before the storm, his uncle remains missing.

"I'm glad they're going because [the hurricane victims] need as much help as possible," said Airman Newton. "I wish I was going."

Though Airman Newton's family home remained unscathed, a few of his relatives' homes are gone.

The Airmen who are deploying do not know how long they will be there. It could be as long as 90 days, according to Chief Schmitz. Many, like Staff Sgt. Jeremy Dumas, 90 SFG, are leaving families behind.

"My family is 100 percent supportive," said Sergeant Dumas. "There are thousands of needy people and my family is happy that I will be directly involved in helping them."

Senior Airman Mike Howie, 790th Missile Security Forces Squadron, is leaving his wife and 1-month old baby. He said he is nervous about leaving them, but he wants to help out people who are hurting.

Though they may be nervous and anxious about leaving, a common theme from those who are deploying is that they are proud to do so.

"Everyone is excited to help out. The 90th Space Wing is proud to be able to go down and help our fellow Americans," said Chief Schmitz. "We're always going overseas, but this time we're helping out at home."



Airmen from the 90th Security Forces Group await takeoff in a C-130 Monday at the Wyoming Air National Guard. Forty-four security forces troops were deployed to Keesler AFB, Miss., to provide humanitarian aid to victims of Hurricane Katrina.

